8th MAY, 1943. PRICE TWOPENCE.

Football League (War) Cup

FINAL.

SHEFFIELD
WEDNESDAY GROUND,

SATURDAY, 8th MAY,
1943.
KICK-OFF 3.15 p.m.

SHEFFIELD
WEDNESDAY
VERSUS
BLACKPOOL

Official Programme.

To Our Supporters and Friends

IT IS sometimes said that the age of miracles is past! Don't believe it. Surely it is nothing short of miraculous that in the Fortress of Britain this winter, despite the scourge of a Totalitarian war, it has been possible not only for first-class football to be played all over the country but to enjoy a boom.

Certainly not a boom comparable with peacetime prosperity: nevertheless, the game has been supported far better than in the previous war seasons.

When one recalls the winter of 1940-41 and those devastating air raids, it seems amazing that such an event as to-day's game between Wednesday and Blackpool for the League's North Cup should be taking place: that a big crowd should have the pleasure of a Cup Final Day.

The first duty of us all is to salute the heroes of the three Services—the Army, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force—on providing their wonderful protection.

We believe that football has played its part in maintaining the morale of the nation and we believe that those engaged on the production of munitions of war have worked the harder because of the Saturday afternoon relaxation.

If the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Rt. Hon. A. V. Alexander, M.P. for the Hillsborough (Sheffield) Division, has been able to attend, we hope that he will convey to the Government Sheffield's appreciation of the sport permitted us under the existing conditions.

We offer a warm welcome to all our visitors. May the second "leg" of the Final fulfil their expectations. Blackpool's team embraces players of undoubted skill, some whose names are household words. Wednesday's team, too, is not without its players of distinction and last Saturday's draw of 2-2 at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool, indicated how well matched the sides are.

If, at the end of 90 minutes, the teams are level on the aggregate of goals for the two games, extra time will be played. Should they still be level at the end of that period, then play will continue until one or the other scores.

Below are tables indicating how the clubs have marched to provide the season's Cup climax:—

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

HOME.		AWAY.	
v. Bradford City Reynolds	1 - 0	v. Bradford City Robinson	1 - 1
v. Nottingham Forest Melling 4, Robinson	5 - 1	v. Nottingham Forest	0 - 1
v. Sheffield United Robinson 2, Melling	3 - 2	v. Sheffield United	0 - 0
v. York City Robinson 2, Hodgson (o.g.)	3 - 0	v. York City Thompson	1 - 1
v. Blackpool (Final)		v. Blackpool (Final) Cockroft, Robinson	2 - 2
	12 - 3		4 - 5

BLACKPOOL

HOME.		AWAY.	
v. Everton Dix, Dodds 2, Gardner	4 - 1	v. Everton Dodds 2, Burbanks	3 - 4
v. Liverpool Dodds 2, Finan 2, Dix	5 - 0	v. Liverpool Dix	1 - 3
v. Manchester City Burbanks, Dix 2	3 - 1	v. Manchester City Dodds	1 - 1
v. Aston Villa Farrow, Finan, Dix	3 - 1	v. Aston Villa Gardner	1 - 2
v. Wednesday (Final) Finan, Burbanks	2 - 2	v. Wednesday (Final)	
	17 - 5		6 -10

Snapshots of the Players.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY.

MORTON. Was "A" team goalkeeper when war broke out in 1939, having arrived from St. Peter's Albion, Tyneside. Has made marked headway this season and his wonderful save from Finan's header last week will long be remembered. Now in the Army.

ASHLEY. Right back. A native of Clowne, Albert is one of the club's old stalwarts and, this season, despite hard work at the pit, has played as well as ever. He reached the high-lights at Blackpool. Previous club: Mansfield Town.

GADSBY. Left back. Son of a former Cup hero of Barnsley, he is on the list of Leeds United, and was on the threshold of football honours when war broke out. For a couple of seasons, he has been one of the mainstays of the R.A.S.C. team, which is the city's crack "junior" side.

RUSSELL. Right half-back. Came to help Wednesday in the dramatic race for promotion in the season before the war from East Fife, Scottish Cup winners in 1938. In the R.A.F. Non-stop worker: skilled in attack and defence.

MILLERSHIP. Centre half-back and captain. As strong as the iron ingots he forges at the furnace. Looked upon as an "old-timer," but a tremendous barrier to opponents. Born at Warsop Vale, he came from Bradford. An "ever-present".

COCKROFT. Left half-back. Won fame years ago with West Ham United, which club he joined from Gainsborough Trinity, though he's a native of Barnsley. One of the finest wing half-backs in the game. A munition worker, he has been a Wednesday jewel for two war-time seasons.

REYNOLDS. Outside right. A Sheffielder, now working on munitions in the city, but a Rochdale player. An honest-to-goodness footballer, who rarely falls into an offside trap. Has been with Burnley, Newport Co., Accrington, and York City, too.

ROBINSON. Inside right. Just one more of the stars unearthed on Tyneside. Came in 1935 when Wednesday won the F.A. Cup. An International, he has scored 41 goals in first-class football this season; 100 in Army football. Shoots with the accuracy of a Bloomer! Only Carter keeps him out of the England team to-day.

MELLING. Frank. Centre-forward. The only amateur engaged in the match. Learnt his football at King Edward VII School, developed it with Sheffield University and the U.A.U. Very fast, a good shot—he has scored 23 goals this season—and 100 per cent. worker. An admirable cricketer.

THOMPSON. Inside left. Used to be the unluckiest footballer in the game. Thrives on hard work on munitions—and limited football training. This has been his best season. An expert in ball control. Speciality: constructive football. Came from the North in Blenkinsop's day.

SWIFT. Outside left. Was a back in the Burngreave School team and joined Wednesday as a junior, though he also played for Lopham. Converted into a winger, but he went back to his old job last week when Catlin was hurt and his resource against Matthews enabled him to hit the head-lines. On war work.

BLACKPOOL.

SAVAGE. Goalkeeper, who hails from Eccles and is on the books of Leeds United. Blackpool have been glad to have his services.

POPE. Right back. Product of the hard school of the Northern Section with Halifax Town. Has developed into a strong and reliable defender.

HUBBICK. Left back. A native of Harrow, but a Bolton Wanderers back: a good player for whom great things were predicted before war broke out. Replaces Sam Jones, injured. Used to be with Burnley.

FARROW. Right half-back. Son of Whitburn, who was with Bournemouth before being transferred to Blackpool in pre-war days. A first-class player, built for the job.

HAYWARD. Centre half-back. Given special leave from the R.A.F. to play to-day. Pre-war Blackpool stock, a pivot of acknowledged skill. Born at Wolstanton he attracted Blackpool's attention when with Port Vale.

JOHNSTON. Left half-back. Young player who has played a worthy part in the club's memorable campaign. Versatile, he's willing to play anywhere.

GARDNER. Outside right. Better remembered in Sheffield as the half-back Sheffield United just missed. Was with Grimsby and Hull City before going to Aston Villa to win an International cap. On Burnley's books. As skilful on the wing as at half-back.

DIX. Inside right. Star performer who has frequently been in the news. On Tottenham Hotspur's books, after having been previously with Bristol Rovers, Blackburn, Aston Villa and Derby County. An International.

SNAPSHOTS OF THE PLAYERS *continued.*

DODDS. Centre-forward. The one-time Sheffield United favourite. Joined Blackpool in 1939 and is cracking goals for them in wartime football, just as he did for United, who got him for a song from Huddersfield Town. One of football's £10,000 stars: a Scottish International. Has scored 44 goals for Blackpool this season. Like several other members of the team, is in the R.A.F.

FINAN. Inside right. A brilliant player, who has rendered the club yeoman service for several seasons. Dangerous anywhere near goal with both head and foot. Born at Old Kilpatrick.

BURBANKS. Outside left. Brilliant winger of Sunderland, whom he helped to win the F.A. Cup in 1937. Played for Doncaster in wartime football for a spell before being moved to the seaside. A native of Bentley, he played for Thorne Town and Denaby, who transferred him to Sunderland.

TEAMS FOR TO-DAY

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Colours: BLUE & WHITE VERTICAL STRIPES; BLACK KNICKERS.

Right Wing — Left Wing

MORTON

2 ASHLEY 3 GADSBY

4 RUSSELL 5 MILLERSHIP 6 COCKROFT

7 REYNOLDS 8 ROBINSON 9 F. MELLING 10 THOMPSON 11 SWIFT

Referee: Mr. F. W. WORT (Liverpool).		Linesmen: Mr. H. BERRY (Huddersfield). (Blue & White Flag) Mr. W. MARTIN (Leeds). (Red & White Flag)

11 BURBANKS 10 FINAN 9 DODDS 8 DIX 7 GARDNER

6 JOHNSTON 5 HAYWARD 4 FARROW

3 HUBBICK 2 POPE

SAVAGE

Left Wing — Right Wing

BLACKPOOL

Colours: TANGERINE JERSEYS, WHITE KNICKERS.

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